

by the joint forces of Hitler and Stalin. Some of the "friends of Russia" began to realize that the rulers of the U.S.S.R. were stooges of Hitler in his war against democracy and Western civilization; others closed their eyes and continued to follow the party line. After the surrender of Poland and a short spell of "phony war," Hitler threw his forces against the Netherlands, France, Belgium, and Norway. Then the anguish of the summer of 1940: Dunkirk, the capitulation of France, the beginning of the Battle of Britain.

The forces of isolationism did not yield without a struggle. Those on the extreme right glorified Hitler's invincible legions; those on the left denounced the British and prophesied their imminent defeat. But the United States had a gallant captain who led the country firmly to the rescue of Great Britain. In December, 1940, the President appealed to the technical genius of the nation to transform the country into the arsenal of democracy. Remembering the interwar years in Europe, where political life was poisoned for many years by the dispute over the interallied and reparations debts, I could readily appreciate the significance of the Lend-Lease act passed by Congress in March, 1941.

Communist pickets paraded in front of the White House, denouncing the President as a warmonger. Wild strikes in munitions factories spread through the country. Stalin was doing everything in his power in support of the Nazis. By this time the liberals had broken with isolationism, but many defended the neutralist policy of the U.S.S.R. as an oriental variety of isolationism. After the shabby treatment the Russians had received at Munich, they argued, the Kremlin could not trust the Allies! When I told my American colleagues in Washington that Stalin was not an impartial onlooker but had an active part in the conflict on Hitler's behalf, they considered my interpretation of Russian policy unfair. In their minds, there was no connection between the Kremlin and the anti-war activity of local Communists.

Suddenly the war took a new turn. One evening late in June, 1941, we turned on the radio. And there was that voice we would never forget, the roaring voice from dark jungles. "*Deutsche Männer und deutsche Frauen!*" Hitler was announcing to the Germans that his troops had invaded Russia and were moving toward Moscow.

Windows in all the houses around our place were open. All our neighbors were listening to Hitler's speech in English translation. We went into the garden. The neighbors came to ask us what effect Hitler's new aggression would have. I said, "Tomorrow all the strikes in munitions factories will be called off and the pickets will disappear from the sidewalk in front of the White House." Indeed, the American Communists promptly reversed their pro-Hitler policy. The attitude of the public toward Russia changed as rapidly as the attitude